



# Maryland Agriculture Data

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report



MD-CW0801

May 21, 2001

### Timely Rains Alleviate Arid Conditions

Maryland’s recent dry weather trend was broken Friday through Sunday with light rains falling over most of the state for the week ending May 20<sup>th</sup>. Prior to Saturday, Maryland received precipitation amounts ranging from zero to .07 inches of rain this month. Continued moisture is needed to activate chemicals, germinate soybean and corn plantings, and maintain small grain conditions.

Planting progressed steadily due to the weather beginning the week, which was dry enough to support 6.2 **days suitable for field work**. Plantings such as **tomatoes, sweet corn, and lima beans** have progressed 10 percent, 6 percent, and 5 percent over the previous week respectively. **Field corn** is 86 percent planted, 18 percent more than the previous week, and 12 percent higher than the five year average. **Soybean** planting is 18 percent complete, a 7 percent progression over the previous week, and 5 percent ahead of the average. Due to the arid conditions experienced this month, some farmers have delayed the planting of both corn and soybeans. However if rains continue, soil conditions will improve and planting can resume.

**Hay** supplies are reported to be mostly adequate with 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 87 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. As hay harvest continues, alfalfa weevils have been detected in some areas. Yields are reported to be lower than normal in these and other areas due to the weevil problem as well as the lack of moisture.

### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 20, 2001 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1996-2000
Small Grain Development:				
Barley, turned	10	--	42	25
Rye, headed	82	70	96	92
Rye, turned	5	--	12	7
Winter Wheat, headed	64	40	85	79
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloupes	64	57	68	71
Cucumbers	38	34	49	50
Field Corn	86	68	78	74
Lima Beans	15	10	15	22
Snap Beans	27	22	28	48
Soybeans	18	11	18	13
Sweet Corn	58	52	72	67
Tomatoes	75	65	60	71
Watermelons	38	36	47	63
Fruit Crops:				
Strawberries, bloomed	92	82	96	91
Strawberries, harvested	8	3	40	26
Hay Harvested:				
Other hay, 1 <sup>st</sup> cutting	33	14	32	24
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	38	16	50	26

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 20, 2001 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	30	41	24	5
Topsoil (2000)	1	23	66	10
Subsoil Moisture	8	47	45	0
Subsoil (2000)	3	10	80	7

Carrie Louey  
Mathematical Statistician

Ray Garibay  
State Statistician